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## AWAITING THE TRANSIT OF COMET

Scientists the World Over on the Lookout for Today's Event.

### SOME HINTS OF DANGER

Professor Ellerman Gets a Cable Giving Hour of Transit.

Some time today or tonight, the earth is to pass through the tail of Halley's comet, and late this afternoon the comet's nucleus or head, will pass between the earth and the sun. A cable received yesterday by Professor Ellerman, of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, who is here as representing the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, stated that final observations and calculations showed that the comet would be at the middle of its passage across the sun at 5:15:18 this afternoon. As it will take about half an hour to cross the sun, this means that the transit will begin at about a quarter to five. The exact time of the earth entering the comet's tail can not be stated.

All over the world scientists are waiting to see what the day will reveal. Some voices of alarm are heard, but an overwhelming majority of the authorities express the opinion that the passage of the comet will have any effect at all, except upon scientific instruments used for purposes of investigation. The present headquarters of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society are in Madison, Wisconsin, to which place the scientists here and in scores of other places will send their reports. The result of Professor Ellerman's observations here will be known at once, while those of Professors Lord and Coddington, at Haleakala, unless very decisive, may not be fully detected or appreciated at first sight.

The hour of transit is what Professor Ellerman and the other observers came here for, and it will afford them and Professor Donaghio of the College of Hawaii an opportunity never had before in the history of astronomy. From Diamond Head, Professor Ellerman will watch the transit, while Professors Lord and Coddington, who also represent the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society, will make observations of a spectroscopic nature.

The great question which the scientists hope to solve is as to the composition of the comet. It is a question whether the nucleus is of sufficient solidity to be visible as it crosses the sun. "The only other transit of a comet across the sun that has been observed was that of the great comet of 1822," said Professor Ellerman yesterday. "That comet was so near the sun, only about 300,000 miles away, that I think its head was vaporized and became too thin to absorb light."

"Halley's comet is far enough from the sun so that it will not be vaporized."

(Continued on Page Two.)

## REMARKABLE VIEW OF THE GREATEST CELESTIAL VISITOR OF GENERATIONS



Official photograph of Halley's comet, with tail, taken by Doctor Fath of the Carnegie Solar Observatory, on the summit of Mt. Wilson through the great sixty-inch reflecting telescope, the largest in the world. The picture was taken on May 8, when the comet was at its best, as seen from California, and is published through the courtesy of Dr. George E. Hale, director of the observatory. It is shown here at the same angle in which it appeared in the eastern sky.

## HAWAII WITHIN POSSIBLE DANGER ZONE OF COMET

If Its Nucleus Should Act as a Lens and Focus the Sun's Rays on the Earth.

Hawaii is within the zone of danger which would be swept by a focal point from the head of the comet, should it act as a great lens focusing the rays of the sun and with devastating effect, according to a contributor to Collier's Weekly, New York. He says:

The gaseous head of the comet, anywhere from twelve to twenty times the size of the earth, acting as a great lens, must bring to a focal point somewhere in space the rays of sunlight which it condenses.

If this focal point should reach the earth's surface, it would sweep a path of fiery destruction along the zone it traveled. Yet, as the comet and earth are moving in opposite directions and the earth's speed is, roughly, sixty-six thousand miles an hour, that of the comet being about ninety thousand miles an hour, the time of passage of this focal point over the earth's surface could not be more than six hours nor cover more than ninety degrees of longitude, or a distance of one-quarter of the earth's circumference.

Fortunately there are few centers of population in the zone traversed. Mexico City and Bombay, India, are almost in line, but the only heavily inhabited

regions are those of India, Siam, Annam, Luzon, and Hawaii. This does not mean that any of these places are to be destroyed by the flaming focal point of the comet. Far from it. The comet would have to be many times its present size, much nearer the earth, and of greater density, to be able to condense sunlight in the manner in which, by using a lens of glass, the focalized rays of sunlight may be made to volatilize metals.

### Invisible Rays of Solar Force.

From the rays of sunlight forming the tail of the comet there is no danger to the earth. The only effect of these rays, as light, will be to cause an extra brilliant day or light night. But in the extra rays of invisible solar force, transmitted to the earth by the comet, may be a cause for earth tremors, storms, and other phenomena.

The passage of every comet between the earth and sun is always accompanied by such disturbances. The list is too long to be here cited, but any one who cares may note the remarkable coincidences of 1811, 1843, 1882. That little trouble was caused in 1882 by Halley's comet is explained by its smaller size as compared with the comets of 1811, 1843, 1882.

A French astronomer of note, in March, announced that the great floods in

(Continued on Page Two.)

## THE BITULITHIC PAVEMENT GOES

Board Last Night Passed the Ordinance—Vote Four to Three.

After a great deal of opposition the ordinance giving the Bitulithic Pavement Company the contract for paving Fort street, was passed at the third reading at the supervisor's meeting last night.

The opposition was all prepared and had all its arguments down so perfectly that they just rippled out, but they were of no avail. Aylett was the first to oppose it and complained because this was the fourth reading. He wanted to know how many times they wanted

(Continued on Page Five.)

## KAUAI OFFICIALS FOR PROHIBITION

When Senator Fairchild reported the Island of Kauai unanimously opposed to prohibition and quite satisfied with what it had in the way of liquor traffic regulation, he overlooked a great deal, according to other reports received from the Garden Island. The fact that the Kauai grand jury drew attention recently to the fact that all the cases it had been called upon to investigate had their relation to liquor and the use of it, has been noted by Kauaians as well as others and there are plenty of the former to assist in bringing about a better state of affairs.

As a matter of fact, the majority on Kauai for prohibition will be substantial in any event and will be large if W. H. Rice and Francis Gay announce themselves in favor of the no-booze side. Some are reported to be waiting to see how these two align themselves, but others are already actively working for the prohibition majority.

A number of prohibition clubs have been formed. In almost every one the officers are either county or territorial officials. The Lahoe club has A. Kaulukou, deputy assessor, for president and J. H. K. Kawai for secretary. The Kapua club is presided over by John M. Kamekua, county clerk of Kauai, while John Opa, supervisor, is treasurer. The secretary for the Kapua club is S. W. Mokuauia, deputy sheriff.

William Warner, judge at Hanalei, is the president of the club in his district, with J. K. Lota, the deputy sheriff, the secretary.

Rev. J. K. Akina, pastor of the Waimua church, is the president of the Waimua club, with J. K. Kapuniala, deputy assessor, the secretary.

## MANY LIVES LOST IN ARIZONA HOTEL FIRE

PHOENIX, Arizona, May 18.—The Hotel Adams was destroyed by fire last night with fearful loss of life. Thirty guests are unaccounted for, and it is feared that most of them perished in the flames. The financial loss is \$375,000.

### REGULARS WIN.

CLEVELAND, May 18.—The primary election returns indicate that a majority of the Republican regulars in congress have been renominated.

## MEETING OF SUPERVISORS

Road Supervisor Wilson Gets a Roast—Aylett Is Called an Insurgent.

Emulation of congressional methods occupied a large portion of the supervisors' time at a regular meeting held last night. Aylett started the fuss, that being his specially recognized privilege, and Supervisor Logan at once placed him in the category of insurgents.

Aylett suffered this through his defense of one John Wilson, long suffering road supervisor of the Honolulu district. John C. Lane lately communicated with the board regarding an action of Wilson's regarding the quarry on Alewa Heights to which the county must pass over Lane's land. The city and county had an arrangement with him by which they paid him a cart load of dirt for every day they used the road. The committee said:

"We were very much surprised to find on investigating, that Mr. Wilson had leased the quarry and rock crusher to Hoogs & Belser for \$7.50 per day without any authority from the road committee or the board of supervisors. We do not object to the said company or parties using the rock crusher or quarry, but permission should first be granted by the board as on this particular instance. They are using the rock for building the road on Alewa Heights for the Territory."

Following this the committee, meaning Jim Quinn, handed Wilson a roast for acting without authorization by the board. It was to this roast that Aylett objected. He was finally placed in the "insurgent" category by Supervisor Logan, who, sitting nearest to him, suffers the most.

Quinn said he thought the report was very lenient and that Wilson ought to be struck by the comet or words to that effect. Then a motion came before the board to hand the report back to the committee. On this there were three ayes and three noes, Ahia who came in late, asking for unanimous consent to

(Continued on Page Five.)

## ANOTHER CONVICT MAKES HIS ESCAPE

The near approach of hot weather has caused quite a number of vacancies in the prison, a number of prisoners and guards going on their vacations. The latest among the prisoners to join the summer colony of prisoners somewhere up in the hills is Chas. Duck Soan, who escaped from the prison gang at the Kaimuki quarry yesterday afternoon. He was in for quite a respectable term for stealing the jewelry of Mrs. Boardman.

There is a somewhat scarcity of guards also, one being on his vacation and Billy Woods being down at Koolau, handling a chicken coop. While ostensibly for the housing of fowls, this chicken house is really a trap for Grace but nothing must be said about it for fear of warning the negro.

### SHOWER OF METEORS.

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 17.—During last night thousands of people of this city beheld a most brilliant meteoric shower, the phenomenon being associated with the nearness of the approach of Halley's comet to the earth.

## OBJECTIONS TO THE BIG FIGHT

Emeryville Probably Won't Allow It and the Plans Change.

### TURN TO SAN FRANCISCO

But Citizens of the Wide-Open Paris of America Also Protest.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 18.—It is planned now to hold the Johnson-Jeffries fight in this city, owing to the prospect that the local authorities in Emeryville appear likely to refuse permission to hold it there. The promoters think that Mayor McCarthy's administration will approve having the contest in San Francisco and are planning accordingly. There will, however, be vigorous protests if such an arrangement is attempted, and there is no certainty yet as to where the fight can be pulled off.

Though both the fighters are continuing to train and promoter Tex Rickard declares that he will certainly pull the fight off, it is beginning to appear likely that there will be trouble over getting a place. Rickard is insured against such contingencies as prevention of the fight.

Some of the leading ministers of San Francisco have been pointing out that practically every State in the Union has passed laws prohibiting prize fights, and they denounced the authorities of Emeryville for bringing California into the limelight as the only State allowing such exhibitions. As a result of this agitation, it developed today that there was much opposition among the officials of Alameda county, in which Emeryville is, to allowing the fight.

Rickard has appealed to the McCarthy administration for a license to allow the white and negro champions to pummel one another in this city. McCarthy has declared for a "wide open" city, and has made San Francisco more "wide open" than she ever was. It is stated, however, that if he attempts to bring upon San Francisco the notoriety of being the scene of this fight, there will be legal proceedings to prevent it.

## PROHIBITION FORCES LOSE DENVER FIGHT

DENVER, May 18.—The "wets" carried Denver in the election held yesterday. A very spirited campaign was carried on by both sides, liquor men securing the aid of outside leaders of national prominence. The count of the vote last night showed that the "drys" were beaten. The churches and other organizations joined forces in a strenuous effort to put Denver on the dry list.

## BODY OF KING LIES IN STATE

First Stage of Edward's Funeral Is Completed—Imposing Ceremonies.

LONDON, May 17.—The remains of the late King Edward were today conveyed in solemn state through the streets of London from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, where they now lie in state.

The original intention had been to have the removal of the body from the throne room of Buckingham Palace to Westminster done privately, but this plan was abandoned and the procession yesterday was one of considerable ceremony, the cortege being an imposing

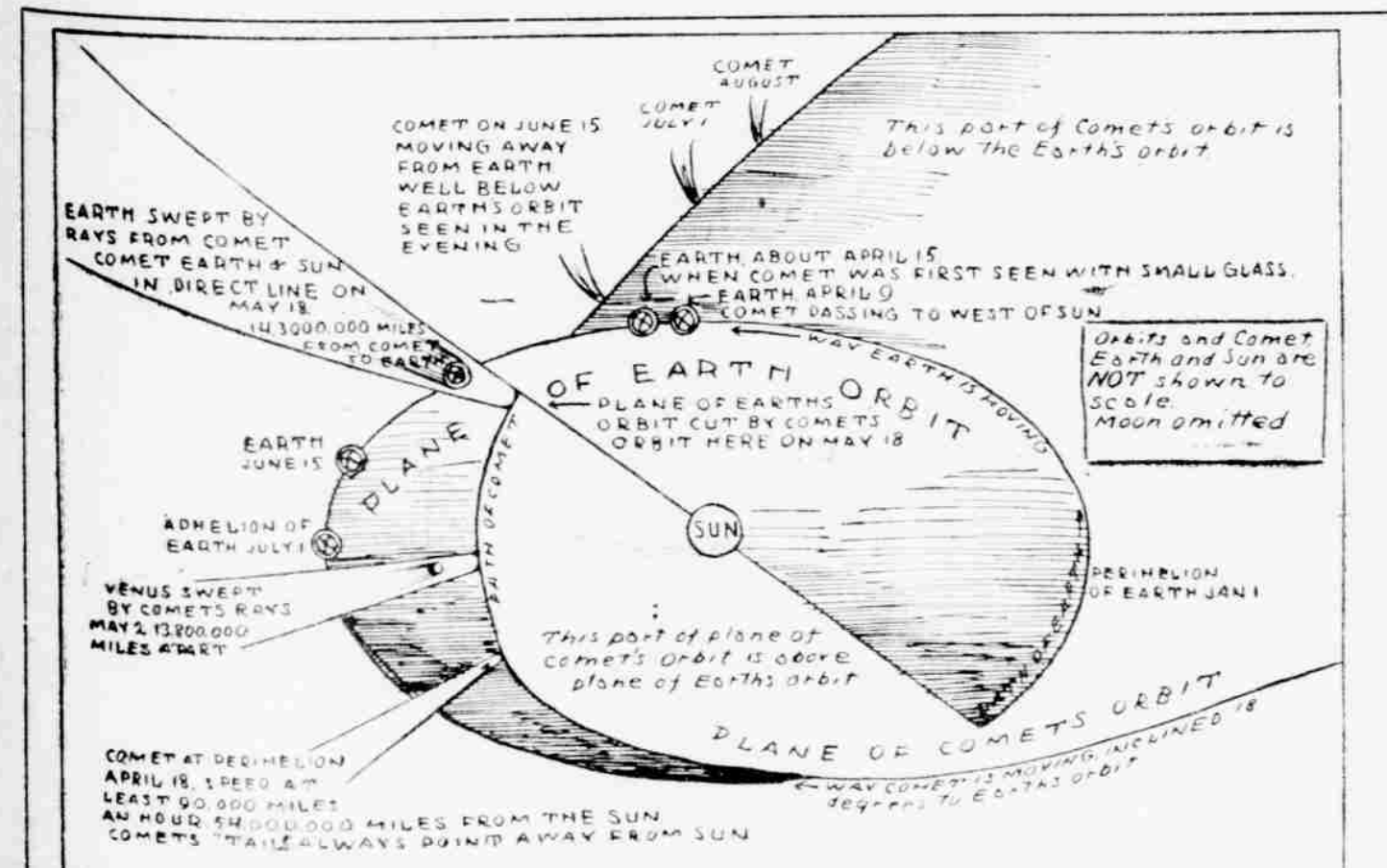
(Continued on Page Four.)

## AMERICAN NAVY SECOND IN THE WORLD

WASHINGTON, May 18.—According to the Year Book of the Navy, just issued, the United States now leads the world, Great Britain excepted, in the total displacement of completed warships. The Year Book gives figures showing the United States easily the second naval power in the world.

Much interest attaches to the figures showing the gains made by the United States as an other navy-building nation. The figures are quoted as bearing out some of the contentions of those who oppose the dreadnought program of the administration. The great battleship Florida, largest of American dreadnoughts, not being a completed vessel, is not included in the calculations which declare America to have the largest tonnage of warships in the world except that of Great Britain.

## POSITIONS OF THE EARTH, THE SUN AND HALLEY'S COMET, CROSSING THE SUN TODAY



The above drawing shows how the head of Halley's comet today passes directly between the earth and the sun, and as the tail always points away from the sun, causes the earth to pass through the tail. Here are shown the orbits of the comet and the earth with the imaginary plane of both orbits. The earth and comet are moving in opposite directions, as shown by the arrows. The varying size of the comet is comparative only to show how it appeared and will appear at different times. The curve in the tail is due to the way it is seen through the convex lens of the earth's atmosphere. By looking toward the sun from the plane of the earth it will be seen why the comet "appears" to be approaching the sun when it is really departing.